

Evaluation of the Accreditation System

Professional Services Division

February 14-15, 2007

Overview of this Report

This agenda item begins discussion on the development of a plan for an ongoing evaluation component to the revised accreditation system. Among the recommendations that were made earlier by the COA and the Work Group was to incorporate ongoing data collection process regarding the efficacy of the revised accreditation system.

Staff Recommendation

This agenda item is for information only. Staff seeks direction from the Committee that will allow for further discussion and the beginning of the development of a comprehensive and ongoing plan for evaluation of the revised accreditation system.

Background

In its discussions of the revised accreditation system, the Committee on Accreditation and the Accreditation Study Work Group agreed that any evaluation component should reflect the same general principle adopted for the institutions and districts it accredits – that there should be a system of ongoing data collection, evaluation, reflection, and modification – to determine whether the system is working effectively.

As the implementation of the revised system gets underway imminently, an evaluation plan needs to be developed and be in place in order to capture essential information as soon as possible. In the early years of the implementation of the system, the evaluation information will be especially critical to modifying and refining the system further to ensure that it meets the commonly agreed upon objectives of the revised system: public accountability, adherence to standards, high quality educator preparation programs, and ongoing program improvement.

In discussing this issue, the Committee may wish to consider:

- 1) Types of data that should be collected.
- 2) What kinds of vehicles should be considered for collecting data (surveys, focus groups, other)?
- 3) The sources of that data (institutions, reviewers, committee members, employers).
- 4) What points in time or with which activities evaluation components would be appropriate?
- 5) How often various aspects of the evaluation plan should be conducted?
- 6) Who should be involved in conducting evaluation components? Should a third party reviewer be considered and, if so, for what purposes?
- 7) How should results of various aspects of an evaluation plan be reported to the Committee and the Commission?
- 8) How will data collected and analyzed as a result of evaluation be used to improve the accreditation system?

The Commission staff will use the Committee discussion to develop ideas for a comprehensive ongoing evaluation plan for the Commission's accreditation system. Additional discussion will take place at the next Committee meeting.